

UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

**PERCEPTIONS AND PRACTICES OF
GOVERNMENT HOSPITAL PHARMACISTS
(MINISTRY OF HEALTH)
TOWARDS ANTIMICROBIAL STEWARDSHIP
PROGRAM IN STATE OF SELANGOR**

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CONFIRMATION BY PANEL OF EXAMINERS

I hereby recommend, that the dissertation prepared under my supervision by Muhammad Syafiq Bin Saleh entitled “Perceptions and Practices of Government Hospital Pharmacists (Ministry of Health) Towards Antimicrobial Stewardship Program in The State of Selangor” be accepted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for Master in Pharmacy Practice from Faculty of Pharmacy, University Technology MARA (UITM).

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I declare that the work in this dissertation was carried out in accordance with the regulations of Universiti Teknologi MARA. It is original and is the results of my own work, unless otherwise indicated or acknowledged as referenced work. This dissertation has not been submitted to any other academic institution or non-academic institution for any degree or qualification.

I, hereby, acknowledge that I have been supplied with the Academic Rules and Regulations for Post Graduate, Universiti Teknologi MARA, regulating the conduct of my study and research.

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ABSTRACT

Antimicrobial resistance has become a major healthcare issue nowadays. Antimicrobial stewardship (AMS) was introduced to promote proper use of antimicrobial agents and to overcome antimicrobial resistance problems. The main objective of this study was to assess pharmacists' perceptions and practices towards AMS program in hospital pharmacy settings. A cross-sectional study was conducted among pharmacists in Selangor from December 2016 to January 2017. Questionnaires were distributed mostly online. Total pharmacists included were 432 and all were universally sampled for the purpose of this study. Total of 199 participants responded to the survey giving a response rate of 46%. The majority of the respondents strongly agreed ($n = 102$, 52.4%) or agreed ($n = 88$, 43.5%) that AMS programs improve patient care in hospitals (Median = 5; IQR = 3). Interestingly, about less than half of the respondents indicated that local antibiotic guidelines were always ($n = 49$, 24.9%) or often ($n = 46$, 23.4%) established in their hospitals (Median = 3, IQR = 4). Gender of the participants affected their median score with respect to their practices in AMS (median score: male = 3 versus female = 4) with the significance p value of 0.007. Similarly, years of practicing has significantly affected the median perception score towards AMS ($p = 0.043$). Qualification of the respondents has a significant impact on their median scores pertaining to both perception ($p = 0.03$) and practices ($p = 0.019$) towards AMS. In overall, the perception and practices towards AMS were positive. Results obtained cannot be generalized as it only reflects pharmacists in the state of Selangor.

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